

The Faithless CAPTAIN: Or, The Betrayed VIRGIN.



ALL you maidens fair, pray awhile draw near,
I a tragical story have to tell;
It will make your heart bleed when farther I proceed,
As for a truth it lately has befall.
In London-city fair lived a maiden there,
blest with a store of wit and beauty bright,
Unto a lady fair she a maiden were,
And the lady in her took delight.
She had a son, we hear, who a captain were,
A ship, the Burford call'd, he did command.
And as it was found was to India bound,
And he must forsake the English land.
His mother's waiting-maid had his heart betray'd,
He great kindness unto her did bear;
Tho' she was poor he did her adore,
But at length he did her heart ensnare.
Rich gold and silver bright on his heart's delight,
With some rich things he did bestow.
Cloth'd her in rich array, like a maiden gay,
But at last it prov'd her overthrow.
The joyful day, we hear, it appointed were,
For the marriage, as you soon shall find.
Men lay many a snare for the maidens fair,
Hard is it for maids to trust mankind.
The night before they married were to be
He unto the maiden fair did come;
Saying, My heart's delight, go with me to night,
About some business that I must have done.
Unto the tavern he took the main straitway,
She, poor innocent maid! did think on ill.
With wine, as we hear, he her senses did ensnare:
Thus the traitor had his lustful will.
But when the morning fair it did then appear,
And sleep her gentle senses did restore,

Finding thus her charms enfolded in his arms,
Down her cheeks the crystal tears did pour.
My heart's oppress'd with grief, finding no relief,
Since a victim to your lust I've fell;
And my virgin-bloom you have cropt too soon,
All joys and pleasures now I bid farewell.
Wilt thou wed me, sir, as thou didst say?
this day thou know'st the knot was to be ty'd.
For ever I'm undone, now my honour's gone,
I am afraid I shall not be your bride.
Then he thus did swear, fear not, charming fair,
Tho' your charming person I've enjoy'd,
If I forsake my dear Heaven be severe!
May all the substance I have be destroy'd!
The ship that I command when I leave the land,
May it never more return again,
And my silent tomb, in this youthful bloom,
Be within the deep and raging main.
But first I'll go to sea, ere I wedded be,
To look after honour and renown.
A dream, she said, she had, they never should be wad,
Now my virgin-honour it is gone.
With many vows and oaths he from her arose,
And on board the ship he soon did steer.
The beautiful damsel bright went that self same night,
And bought some cloathing then to wear.
Her lovely locks of hair white as silver were,
She cut off that none might her know,
Cloath'd like a sailor bright she went that same night,
To enter at the rendezvous did go.
Being tall and slim, strait in every limb,
Both shape and dress together did agree.
The crew at her did gaze, the lieutenant says,
Young man, have you ever been at sea?

No, kind sir, said she, but if you'll enter me,
I soon shall become a sailor bold;
For I've a mind to go where the storms do blow,
And to seek for honour and bright gold.
She was entertained fain to be a second mate.
And on board in a little time did go.
For the Indies they soon did sail away.
The captain his true love did not know.
Once upon a day he unto her did say,
Mate, thy person doth so much appear
Just like a love of mine, I think many a time,
When I look on you, upon my dear.
She was my mother's maid, I her heart betray'd,
Now I have left her thus to grieve alone.
And I wish that she soon may marry'd be,
To some other man ere my return.
These were piercing darts to her tender heart,
With a piercing sigh from him she turn'd away.
Revenge, ye Gods! she said, on his perjur'd head,
Whose cruelty my honour did betray.
Now comes the tragic part enough to pierce a heart:
Quick she found herself with-child to be.
This cut her heart with fear, no one being near,
To help her in her sad extremity,
The ship's crew, we hear, all did love her dear.
Soon the lovely charming second mate
Did appear at last thick about the wait,
And forth from her eyes shed many a tear.
The captain soon did take notice of the mate,
One day as she in his cabin were,
And the captain there by her breasts so fair,
Thought indeed she must a woman be.
The more he on her gaz'd the more he was amaz'd,
Perfectly he thought her face he knew.
He said, Reveng'd I'll be if it should be she,
So out of the cabin strait he flew.
He bid the surgeon strait go and call the mate.
She trembling to the captain then did come.
Said he, I plainly see, madam, who you be,
I shall be revenged for this you have done.
At his feet then she fell immediately,
And said, Do not be to me severe.
It is for love of thee I have crost the sea,
Pity my distress, my dearest dear.
You have been you know my sad overthrow.
I little d'd think with child I were.
But since it is so, Lord! some favour show,
Pity a distressed creature here.
Arise, and go from me, unto her he did say,
See none of this matter you let know.
Soon as we can get sight of the land,
I am resolv'd you on shore shall go.
She said, Dearest dear, be not so severe.
Call to mind the oaths you made to me,
And how you did betray my virginity,
The night before we marry'd were to be,
Do not from me part in this wild desert,
Bury me within the watery main.
Freely I'd comply this moment to die;
By the man I love let me be slain.
As thus she did speak tears bedew'd her cheek,
Earnestly upon her he did gaze,

He unto her did cry, and made her this reply,
In these arms, sweet Molly, make your grave.
I cannot cruel be to such constancy,
Nothing I'll refuse that I can do.
But as you're in distress Heaven knows the best,
My dearest, what will become of you.
We are far from shore now the billows roar.
The doctor he must thy comfort be.
The minister I'll tell what has thee beset,
And we'll marry'd be upon the sea.
The men were confus'd when they heard the news,
And mov'd to pity for the charming fair.
But as we do hear, when they marry'd were,
Ere the morning-light it did appear,
But still as you find fortune proves unkind,
These unhappy lovers to divide.
As he sleeping were by his lovely fair,
Boreas blew, and dreadful storms arose.
All hands aloft they run, danger for to shun,
While the swelling bosom of the sea
Toss'd them mountains high, they for help did cry
To the Lord in their extremity.
At last upon a rock they receiv'd a shock,
Expecting every moment for to die.
The men all employed thus to save their lives,
As on the rock the gallant ship did lie,
The woman on the deck came among the rest.
In the hurry overboard she fell,
No one could her save, the sea was her grave,
A tragic story to her love to tell.
The powers did decree she should not sav'd be,
By the waves they from the rocks were driven,
The storms abated were to their comfort there.
For this happiness they thank'd kind Heaven.
But the captain cry'd, Where's my loving bride?
Having search'd, no one could her see.
For oh, unlucky bay! she was cast away,
At that he wrung his hands most bitterly.
No rest could he take, but sat on the deck,
Earnestly of Heaven did implore,
That he her corpse might see, floating on the sea,
To gaze his last upon her he did adore.
When two days were past, he did spy at last
Her fair body floating on the main:
O Neptune kind, said he, thus to favour me,
With a sight of my love again.
Now like Leander here I'll go to my dear,
Evermore within her arms to sleep;
It was for the love of me she did sail the sea,
And made her tomb in the silent deep.
Her love to retaliate I will share her fate.
The gods unto our vows all witness be.
My promise I'll perform this unhappy morn.
So instantly he leapt into the sea.
Many of the men strove to save him then,
But, alas! it was his fatal hour.
So the swelling waves did become his grave,
Who were never after seen no more.
Young men, a warning take how your vows you break,
Of young virgins do not make your game;
Keep your vows and oaths as you do propose,
Then happy blessings will attend the same,